

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 May 2002 (10.05.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/36601 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:

C07H

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US01/47603

(22) International Filing Date: 26 October 2001 (26.10.2001)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/244,675 31 October 2000 (31.10.2000) US

(71) Applicants (*for all designated States except US*): MERCK & CO., INC. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US). BANYU PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD. [JP/JP]; 2-3, Nihombashi Honcho 2-Chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-8416 (JP).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): PETRILLO, Daniel, E. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US). WEISSMAN, Steven, A. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US). ROSEN, Kai [DE/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 09065-0907 (US). HIRAGA, Shouichi [JP/JP]; 2-3, Nihombashi Honcho 2-Chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-8416 (JP). SATAKE, Nobuya [JP/JP]; 2-3, Nihombashi Honcho 2-Chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-8416 (JP).

(74) Common Representative: MERCK & CO., INC.; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



WO 02/36601 A2

(54) Title: PHASE TRANSFER CATALYZED GLYCOSIDATION OF AN INDOLOCARBAZOLE

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a novel glycosidation process to make intermediates useful in the preparation of indolopyrrolocarbazole derivatives which inhibit the growth of tumor cells and are therefore useful in the treatment of cancer in mammals, and the like.

TITLE OF THE INVENTIONPHASE TRANSFER CATALYZED GLYCOSIDATION OF AN
INDOLOCARBAZOLE5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a novel glycosidation process to make intermediates useful in the preparation of indolopyrrolocarbazole derivatives which inhibit the growth of tumor cells and are therefore useful in the treatment of cancer in mammals, and the like.

10 In the field of cancer chemotherapy, a large number of compounds have already been put to practical use as antitumor agents. However, a need continues for the development of more efficacious compounds that work against a variety of tumors (see the Proceedings of the 47th General Meeting of the Japan Cancer Society, pp. 12-15 (1988)). This need has led to the development of
15 indolocarbazole derivatives. (See U.S. Patent Nos. 4,487,925; 4,552,842; 4,785,085; 5,591,842 and 5,922,860; Japanese Patent No. 20277/91; Journal of Antibiotics, Vol. 44, pp. 723-728 (1991); WO91/18003; WO 98/07433; and EP0545195 A1.) These compounds have been shown to act as topoisomerase inhibitors and therefore useful in the treatment of cancer (Cancer Chemother. Pharmacol. 34 (suppl): S41-S45
20 (1994)).

25 The success of these compounds in treating numerous cancers has necessitated the development of improved methods for their syntheses. (See Bioorg. & Med. Chem. Letters 2000, 10, 419; Tetrahedron 1997, 53, 5937; Tetrahedron 1997, 53, 585; and Synthesis 1976, 414.) The previously known methods, however, suffer from numerous problems, including the use of undesirable solvents, mercury or silver salts, low yields and formation of unwanted side-products necessitating tedious or protracted purification steps.

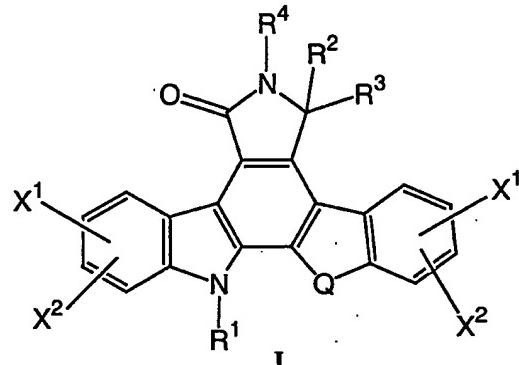
An object of this invention therefore is to provide a novel route to intermediates useful in the preparation of indolopyrrolocarbazole-derived antitumor

substances while overcoming the problems inherent in the previously known syntheses.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention is a novel glycosidation process to make intermediates useful in the preparation of indolopyrrolocarbazole derivatives which inhibit the growth of tumor cells and are therefore useful in the treatment of cancer in mammals, and the like, such as those of Formula I below.

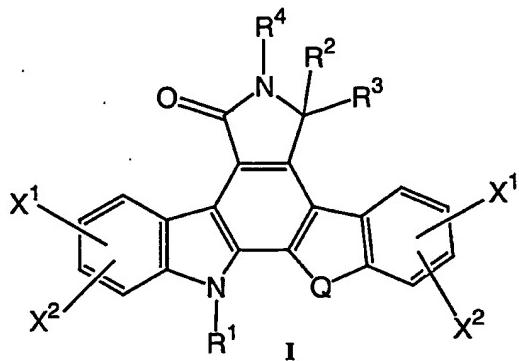
10



15

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

An embodiment of the present invention is illustrated by a process for the preparation of a compound of Formula I,



wherein

Q is O, N-R, S, or CH₂;

5 X¹ and X² are independently selected from:

- 1) H,
- 2) halogen,
- 3) OH,
- 4) CN,
- 10 5) NC,
- 6) CF₃,
- 7) (C=O)NO₂,
- 8) (C=O)C₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 9) (C=O)OC₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 15 10) OCH₂OCH₂CH₂Si(CH₃)₃,
- 11) NO₂,
- 12) 9-fluorenylmethylcarbonyl,
- 13) NR₅R₆,
- 14) OC₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 20 15) C₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 16) C₁-C₆ alkylenearyl, and
- 17) OC₁-C₆ alkylenearyl;

R and R¹ are independently:

- 25 1) H,
- 2) (C=O)C₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 3) (C=O)CF₃,
- 4) (C=O)OC₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 5) 9-fluorenylmethylcarbonyl,

6) a furanose group, or

7) a pyranose group,

so long as one of R and R¹ is a furanose group or a pyranose group;

5 R² and R³ are independently OH or H, or

R² and R³ are taken together to form an oxo group;

R⁴ is:

1) H,

10 2) C₁-C₁₀ alkyl,

3) CHO

4) (C=O)C₁-C₁₀ alkyl,

5) (C=O)OC₁-C₁₀ alkyl,

6) C₀-C₁₀ alkylenearyl, or

15 7) C₀-C₁₀ alkylene-NR⁵R⁶;

R⁵ and R⁶ are independently:

1) H,

2) (C₁-C₈ alkyl)-(R⁷)₂,

20 3) (C=O)O(C₁-C₈ alkyl),

4) 9-fluorenylmethylcarbonyl,

5) OCH₂OCH₂CH₂Si(CH₃)₃,

6) (C=O)(C₁-C₈ alkyl),

7) (C=O)CF₃, or

25 8) (C₂-C₈ alkenyl)-(R⁷)₂, or

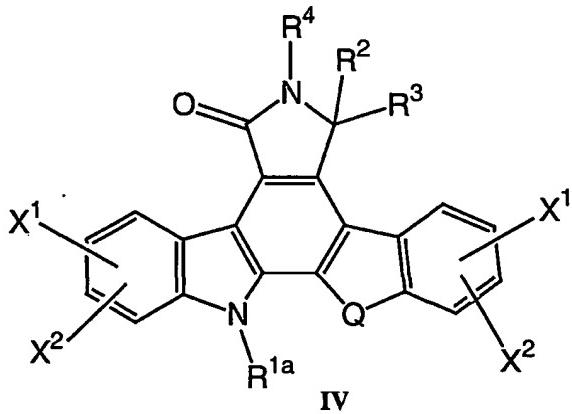
R⁵ and R⁶ are taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached to form N-phthalimido;

R⁷ is:

- 1) H,
- 2) OH,
- 5 3) OC₁-C₆ alkyl, or
- 4) aryl, said aryl optionally substituted with up to two groups selected from OH, O(C₁-C₆ alkyl), and (C₁-C₃ alkylene)-OH;

which comprises the steps of:

- 10 (a) reacting a furanose or a pyranose with an activating reagent to produce an activated sugar; and
- (b) coupling the activated sugar with a compound of Formula IV



15

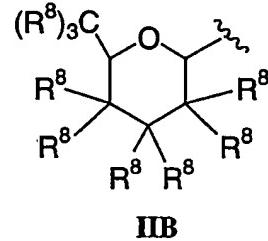
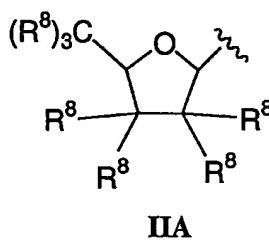
wherein R^{1a} is H if Q is O, S, CH₂, or N-R and R is not H, otherwise R^{1a} is selected from R¹;

- in the presence of an aqueous solution of alkali hydroxide and a phase transfer catalyst in a biphasic system to produce the compound of Formula I.

Another embodiment is the process described above, wherein

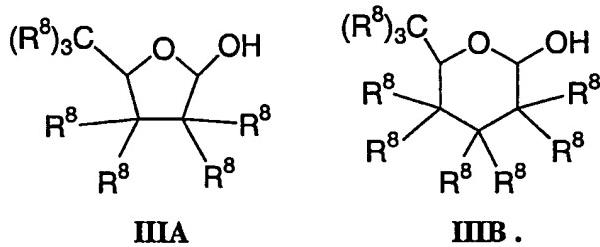
R and R¹ are independently selected from a furanose group of Formula II A or a pyranose group of Formula II B, when R or R¹ is defined as a furanose group or a pyranose group, respectively;

5



R⁸ is independently selected from:

- 1) hydrogen,
 - 2) C₁-C₆ alkyl,
 - 3) OH,
 - 4) halogen,
 - 5) O(C₁-C₆ alkyl),
 - 6) O(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-aryl,
 - 7) OSO₂(C₁-C₆ alkyl),
 - 8) OSO₂aryl,
 - 9) OCH₂OCH₂CH₂Si(CH₃)₃,
 - 10) O(C=O)(C₁-C₆ alkyl),
 - 11) O(C=O)CF₃,
 - 12) azido, or
 - 13) NR⁵R⁶, or
- two R⁸'s on the same carbon are taken together to be oxo, =N-R⁵, or =N-R⁷; and
- 25 the furanose or pyranose in Step (a) is a furanose of Formula III A or a pyranose of Formula III B, respectively;



5 In another embodiment, the activating reagent in Step (a) is selected from an acid halide, a sulfonate, a phosphate, a sulfate, a borate, or an acetate and the biphasic system in Step (b) is comprised of an organic solvent selected from a hydrocarbon, a nitrile, an ether, a halogenated hydrocarbon, a ketone, or an apolar aprotic solvent.

10 Yet another embodiment is the process described above wherein the activating reagent is selected from SOCl₂ or oxalyl chloride.

A further embodiment is the process described above wherein the biphasic system is comprised of methyl-t-butyl ether, dichloromethane, or trifluorotoluene.

15 In still another embodiment the phase transfer catalyst in Step (b) is
 $(R^a)_4M^+ A^-$;

R^a is independently H or C₁-C₁₈ aliphatic hydrocarbon;

M is N or P; and

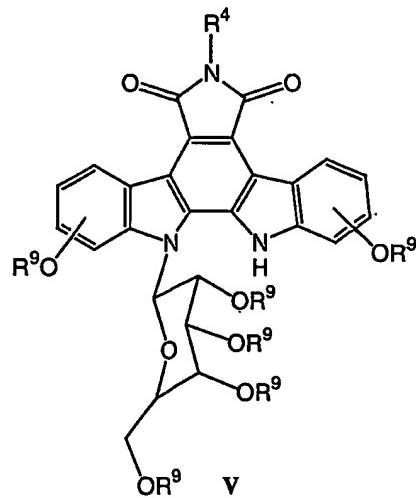
A is OH, F, Br, Cl, I, HSO₄, CN, MeSO₃, or PhCH₂CO₂.

20 A preferred embodiment is the process described above wherein the phase transfer catalyst is tricaprylmethyl ammonium chloride.

Another preferred embodiment is the process according to the description above, wherein the aqueous solution of alkali hydroxide in Step (b) has a concentration of about 5% to about 95% w/w and the alkali hydroxide is selected
25 from lithium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, and cesium hydroxide.

Also favored is the process wherein the aqueous solution of alkali hydroxide has a concentration of about 45% to about 50% w/v and the alkali hydroxide is potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide.

A more preferred embodiment is a process for the preparation of a
5 compound of Formula V,



wherein

10

R⁴ is:

- 1) H,
- 2) C₁-C₁₀ alkyl,
- 3) CHO
- 15 4) (C=O)C₁-C₁₀ alkyl,
- 5) (C=O)OC₁-C₁₀ alkyl,
- 6) C₀-C₁₀ alkylenearyl, or
- 7) C₀-C₁₀ alkylene-NR⁵R⁶;

20 R⁵ and R⁶ are independently:

- 1) H,
- 2) (C₁-C₈ alkyl)-(R⁷)₂,
- 3) (C=O)O(C₁-C₈ alkyl),
- 4) 9-fluorenylmethylcarbonyl,
- 5) OCH₂OCH₂CH₂Si(CH₃)₃,
- 6) (C=O)(C₁-C₈ alkyl),
- 7) (C=O)CF₃, or
- 8) (C₂-C₈ alkenyl)-(R⁷)₂, or

10 R⁵ and R⁶ are taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached to form N-phthalimido;

R⁷ is:

- 1) H,
- 2) OH,
- 3) OC₁-C₆ alkyl, or
- 4) aryl, said aryl optionally substituted with up to two groups selected from OH, O(C₁-C₆ alkyl), and (C₁-C₃ alkylene)-OH;

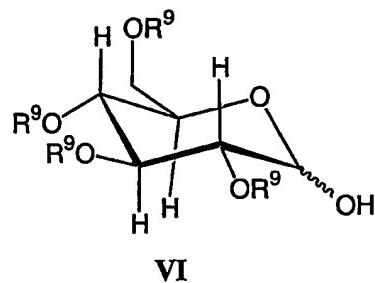
20 R⁹ is:

- 1) H,
- 2) C₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 3) (C₁-C₆ alkylene)-aryl,
- 4) SO₂(C₁-C₆ alkyl),
- 25 5) SO₂aryl,
- 6) CH₂OCH₂CH₂Si(CH₃)₃,
- 7) (C=O)(C₁-C₆ alkyl), or
- 8) (C=O)CF₃;

which comprises the steps of:

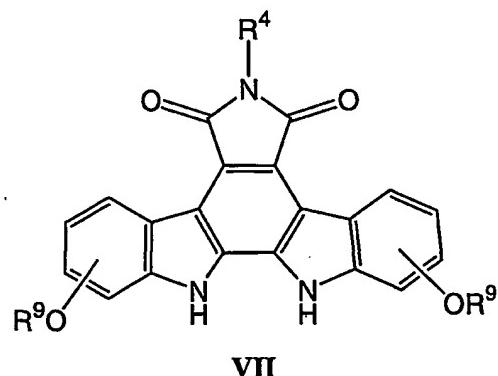
- (a) reacting a sugar derivative of Formula VI with an acid chloride to produce the activated sugar; and

5



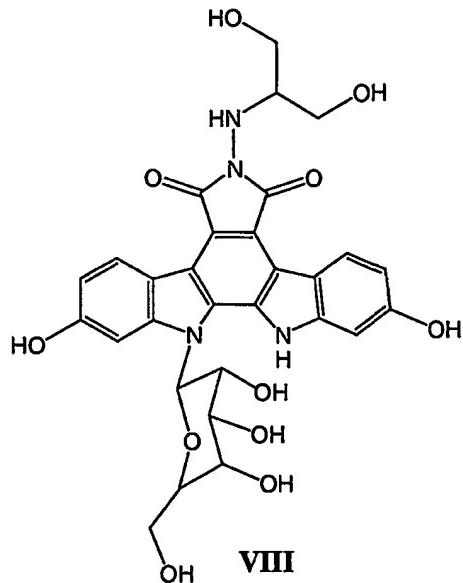
- (b) coupling the activated sugar with a compound of Formula VII

10



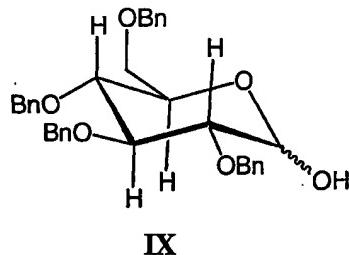
in the presence of an aqueous solution of an alkali hydroxide and tricaprylmethyl
15 ammonium chloride in t-butyl methyl ether to produce the compound of Formula V.

And yet another preferred embodiment is a process for the preparation
of a compound of Formula VIII,

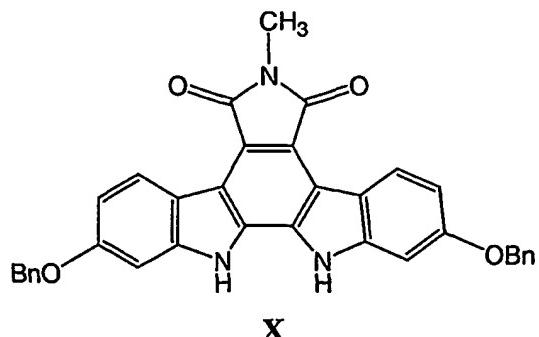


which comprises the steps of:

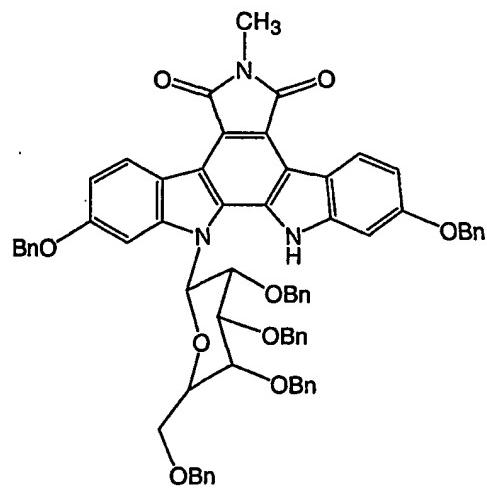
- (a) reacting a sugar derivative of Formula IX with thionyl chloride to produce the
5 activated sugar;



- 10 (b) coupling the activated sugar with a compound of Formula X

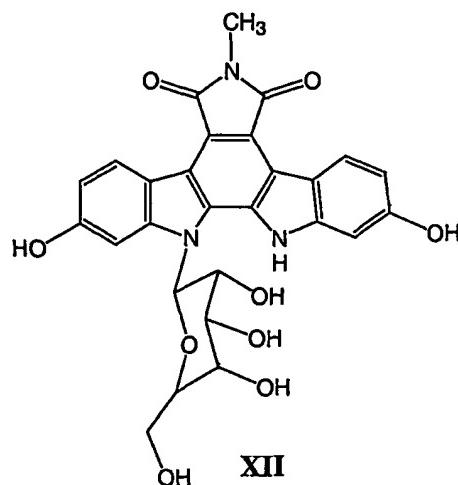


in the presence of an aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide
5 and tricaprylmethyl ammonium chloride in t-butyl methyl ether to form the
glycosidated compound **XI**;



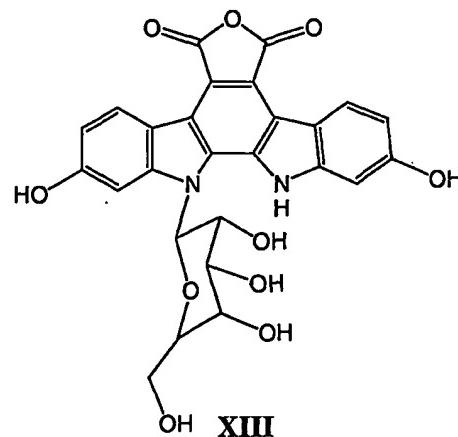
10

(c) deprotecting the glycosidated product **XI** by reacting it with catalytic palladium in
the presence of hydrogen gas to form the deprotected glycosidated product **XII**;



(d) reacting the deprotected glycosidated product XII with an aqueous solution of alkali hydroxide to form anhydride XIII; and

5



(e) reacting anhydride XIII with 2-hydrazino-1,3-propanediol to produce the compound of Formula VIII.

10

Also preferred is the process as described above to make a compound of Formula V wherein Step (A) is conducted in t-butyl methyl ether or tetrahydrofuran at a temperature of about -10°C to about 30°C and Step (B) is conducted at a temperature of about 0°C to about 40°C.

And a final embodiment is the process described above, wherein

the potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide in step (b) is added before the tricaprylmethyl ammonium chloride.

The compounds of the present invention may have asymmetric centers, chiral axes, and chiral planes (as described in: E.L. Eliel and S.H. Wilen, 5 Stereochemistry of Carbon Compounds, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1994, pages 1119-1190), and occur as racemates, racemic mixtures, and as individual diastereomers, with all possible isomers and mixtures thereof, including optical isomers, being included in the present invention. In addition, the compounds disclosed herein may exist as tautomers and both tautomeric forms are intended 10 to be encompassed by the scope of the invention, even though only one tautomeric structure is depicted.

When any variable (e.g. X¹, X², R⁸, R⁹ etc.) occurs more than one time in any constituent, its definition on each occurrence is independent at every other occurrence. Also, combinations of substituents and variables are permissible 15 only if such combinations result in stable compounds. Lines drawn into the ring systems from substituents indicate that the indicated bond may be attached to any of the substitutable ring carbon atoms. If the ring system is polycyclic, it is intended that the bond be attached to any of the suitable carbon atoms on the proximal ring only.

It is understood that substituents and substitution patterns on the 20 compounds of the instant invention can be selected by one of ordinary skill in the art to provide compounds that are chemically stable and that can be readily synthesized by techniques known in the art, as well as those methods set forth below, from readily available starting materials.

As used herein, "alkyl" is intended to include both branched, straight- 25 chain, and cyclic saturated aliphatic hydrocarbon groups having the specified number of carbon atoms. For example, C₁-C₆, as in "C₁-C₆ alkyl" is defined to include groups having 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 carbons in a linear, branched, or cyclic arrangement. For example, "C₁-C₆ alkyl" specifically includes methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, and so on, as well as cycloalkyls such as cyclopropyl, methylcyclopropyl, 30 dimethylcyclobutyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, and cyclohexyl, and so on. The alkyl

sbstituents may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from halogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, OH, OC₁-C₆ alkyl, O(C=O)C₁-C₆ alkyl, O(C=O)OC₁-C₆ alkyl, amino, amido, CO₂H, CN, NO₂, N₃, C₁-C₆ perflouroalkyl, and OC₁-C₆ perflouroalkyl. "Alkoxy" represents an alkyl group of indicated number
5 of carbon atoms attached through an oxygen bridge.

The term "alkenyl" refers to a non-aromatic hydrocarbon radical, straight, branched or cyclic, containing from 2 to 10 carbon atoms and at least one carbon to carbon double bond. Preferably one carbon to carbon double bond is present, and up to four non-aromatic carbon-carbon double bonds may be present.
10 Thus, "C₂-C₆ alkenyl" means an alkenyl radical having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms. Alkenyl groups include ethenyl, propenyl, butenyl, 2-methylbutenyl and cyclohexenyl. The straight, branched or cyclic portion of the alkenyl group may contain double bonds and may be substituted if a substituted alkenyl group is indicated.

In certain instances, substituents may be defined with a range of
15 carbons that includes zero, such as (C₀-C₆)alkylene-NR₅R₆. If R₅ and R₆ are taken as H in this case, this definition would include NH₂, as well as -CH₂NH₂, -CH₂CH₂NH₂, CH(CH₃)CH₂CH(CH₃)NH₂, -CH₂CH(NH₂)CH₃, and so on. It is intended in these cases that the substituent on the bivalent radical can be attached at any point and not limited to the terminal position.

20 As used herein, "aryl" is intended to mean substituted and unsubstituted phenyl or naphthyl. If substituted, it may be substituted with one to three substituents selected from halogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, OH, OC₁-C₆ alkyl, O(C=O)C₁-C₆ alkyl, O(C=O)OC₁-C₆ alkyl, amino, amido, CO₂H, CN, NO₂, N₃, C₁-C₆ perflouroalkyl, and OC₁-C₆ perflouroalkyl.

25 As appreciated by those of skill in the art, "halo" or "halogen" as used herein is intended to include chloro, fluoro, bromo and iodo.

When definitions such as "(C₁-C₈ alkyl)-(R⁷)₂" are used, it is intended that the variable R⁷ be attached at any point along the alkyl moiety.

Therefore, if R⁷ is defined as OH in this case, the definition would include the following: CH₂OH, CH₂CH₂OH, CH(CH₃)CH(OH)CH₃, CH(CH₃)CH(OH)CH₂-CH(OH)CH₃, and so on.

The term "alkylene" and "alkenylene" simply refer to an alkyl or
5 alkenyl group as defined above, respectively, of the specified number of carbons
that is divalent. For example, "C₁-C₄ alkylene" includes -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-,
-CH(CH₃)CH₂-, and so on.

The definitions of R and R¹ include furanose and pyranose
sugar derivatives. Preferred sugar derivatives are O-protected pyranoses, such
10 as D-glucopyranose; 6-deoxy-6,6-difluoro-D-glucopyranose; 6-deoxy-6-azido-D-
glucopyranose; 6-amino-6-deoxy-D-glucopyranose; 6-azido-D-glucopyranose; 6-
amino-D-glucopyranose; 4-deoxy-4,4-difluoro-6-deoxy-6-azido-D-glucopyranose;
2-fluoro-D-glucopyranose; D-galactopyranose; 4-deoxy-D-galactopyranose;
4-deoxy-D-glucopyranose; and 4-methoxy-D-glucopyranose. (see, for examples,
15 WO 98/07433, hereby incorporated by reference). Preferred furanoses include
xylofuranose, arabinofuranose, ribofuranose, allofuranose, and 2-deoxyribofuranoses.

R⁹ can generally be any known O-protecting group. Examples of such
protecting groups include, but are not limited to: benzyl, p-nitrobenzyl, tolyl, and the
like. A more preferred protecting group is benzyl (Bn), i.e., CH₂Ph. Other suitable
20 protecting groups will be known to those of skill in the art, examples of which can be
found in *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis* by Peter G. M. Wuts and Theodora
W. Greene; John Wiley & Sons, 3rd ed. (1999).

As used herein, "biphasic system" refers to a two-phase solvent system
consisting of an aqueous phase and an organic phase.

25 The choice of activating reagent to activate the sugar for coupling can
be readily discerned by those skilled in the art. Examples of such reagents include acid
halides (such as SOCl₂, POCl₃, SOBr₂, POBr₃, PBr₃ and oxalyl chloride), sulfonyl
halides, and so on. The preferred reagents are thionyl chloride and oxalyl chloride.

The most preferred is thionyl chloride. Other useful reagents in the activation include triphenyl phosphine/I₂, and triphenyl phosphine/azidodicarboxylate.

The appropriate solvent to be used in the reaction to activate the sugar can be ascertained by the ordinary chemist. Preferred solvents are hydrocarbons (such as toluene, xylenes, heptane, and hexane), nitriles (such as acetonitrile), ethers (such as *t*-butyl methyl ether and tetrahydrofuran), halogenated hydrocarbons (such as methylene chloride, carbontetrachloride, chloroform, trifluorotoluene and dichlorobenzene) ketones (such as methyl isobutyl ketone and acetone), and apolar aprotic solvents (such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide and 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone). More preferred solvents are *t*-butyl methyl ether and tetrahydrofuran. The most preferred solvent is *t*-butyl methyl ether.

The activation reaction can be performed at temperatures ranging from about -50°C to about 200°C. The preferred temperatures are about -10°C to about 30°C.

Similarly, the appropriate solvent to use in the biphasic coupling reaction will be readily discernible to the skilled artisan. Appropriate solvents include hydrocarbons (such as toluene, xylenes, heptane, and hexane), nitriles (such as acetonitrile), ethers (such as *t*-butyl methyl ether and tetrahydrofuran), halogenated hydrocarbons (such as methylene chloride, carbontetrachloride, chloroform, trifluorotoluene and dichlorobenzene) ketones (such as methyl isobutyl ketone and acetone), and apolar aprotic solvents (such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide and 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone). The preferred solvents are *t*-butyl methyl ether, dichloromethane, and trifluorotoluene.

The coupling reaction can be performed at temperatures ranging from about -50°C to about 200°C. The preferred temperatures are about 0°C to about 40°C.

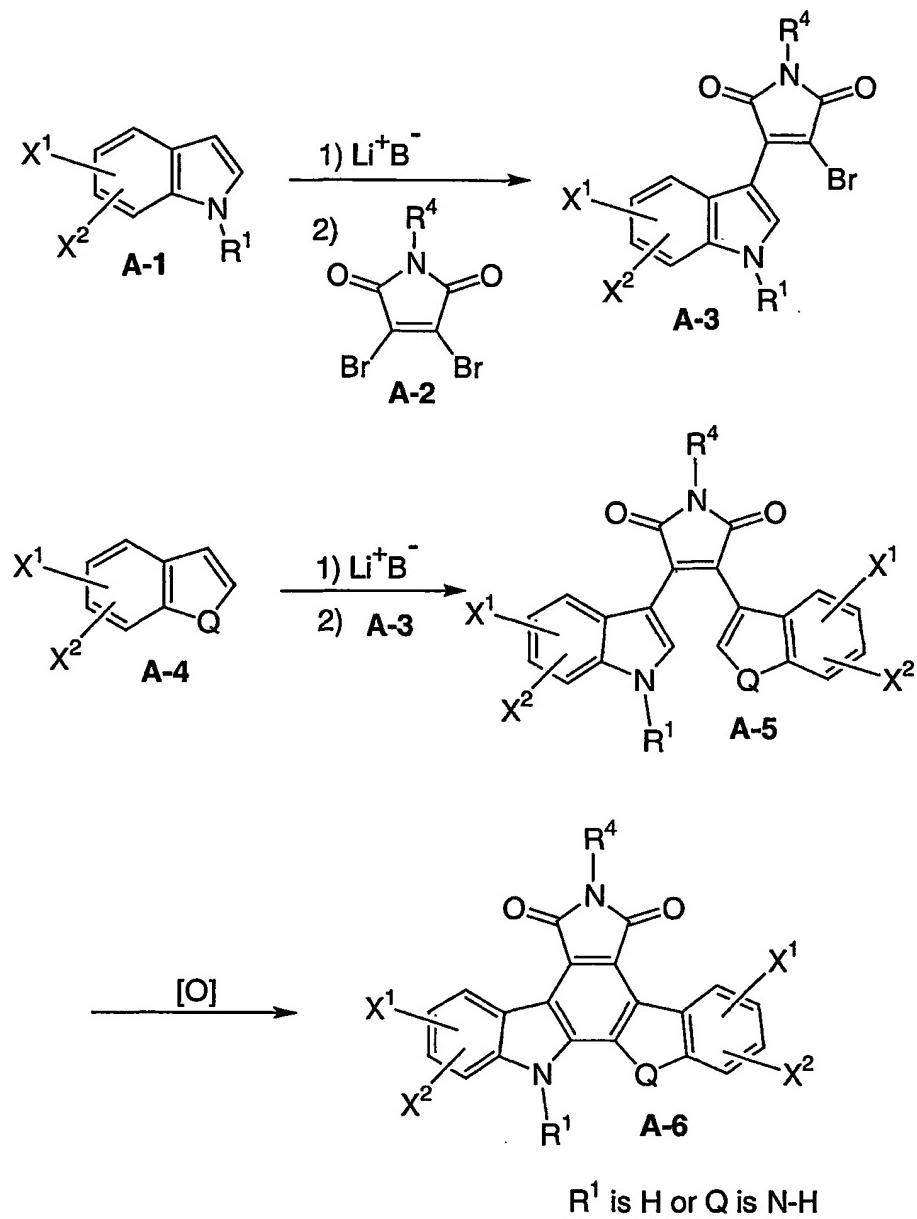
The preferred bases for the coupling reaction are alkali hydroxides, such as lithium, sodium, potassium, and cesium hydroxide. Potassium hydroxide and sodium hydroxide are more preferred. The base concentration in water can vary from

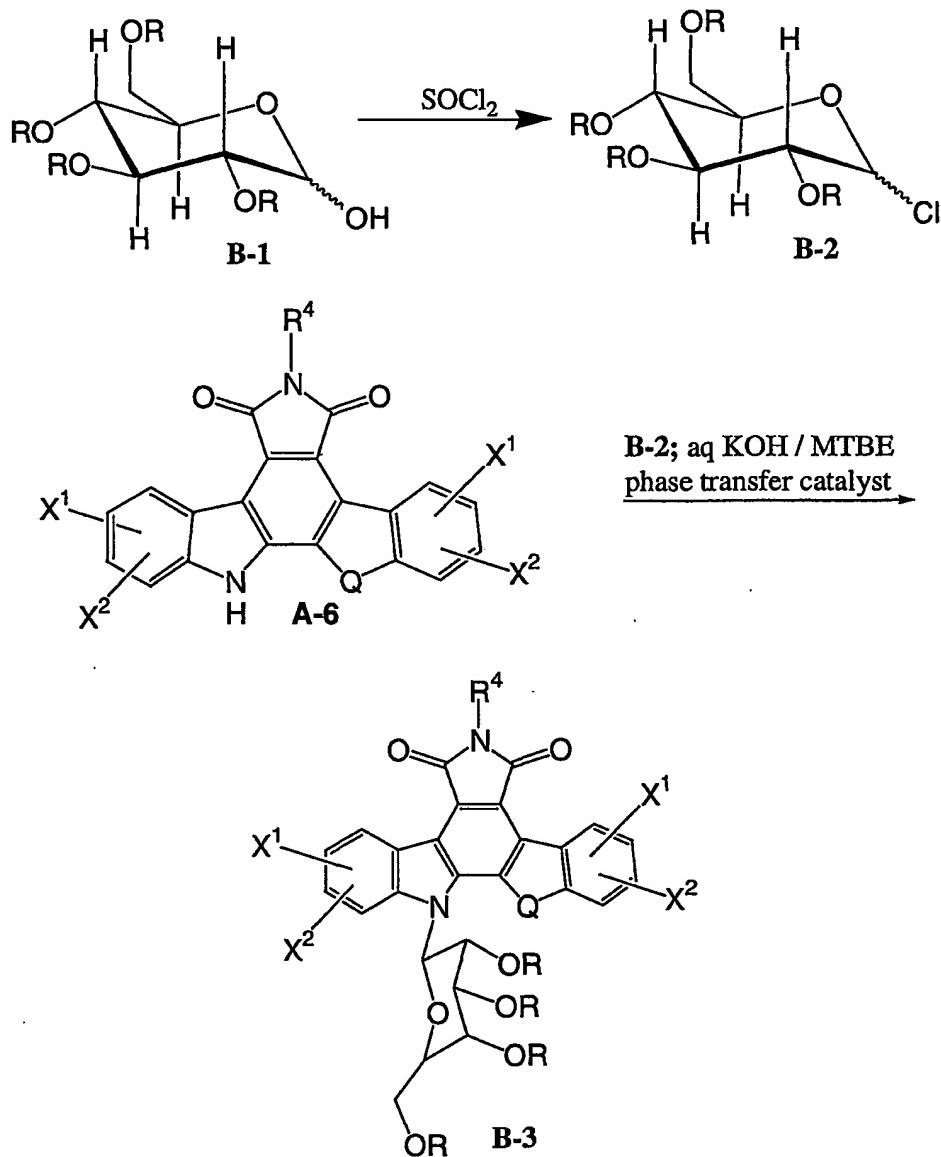
about 5% w/w to about 95% w/w. The more preferred concentrations are about 45% to about 50% w/w.

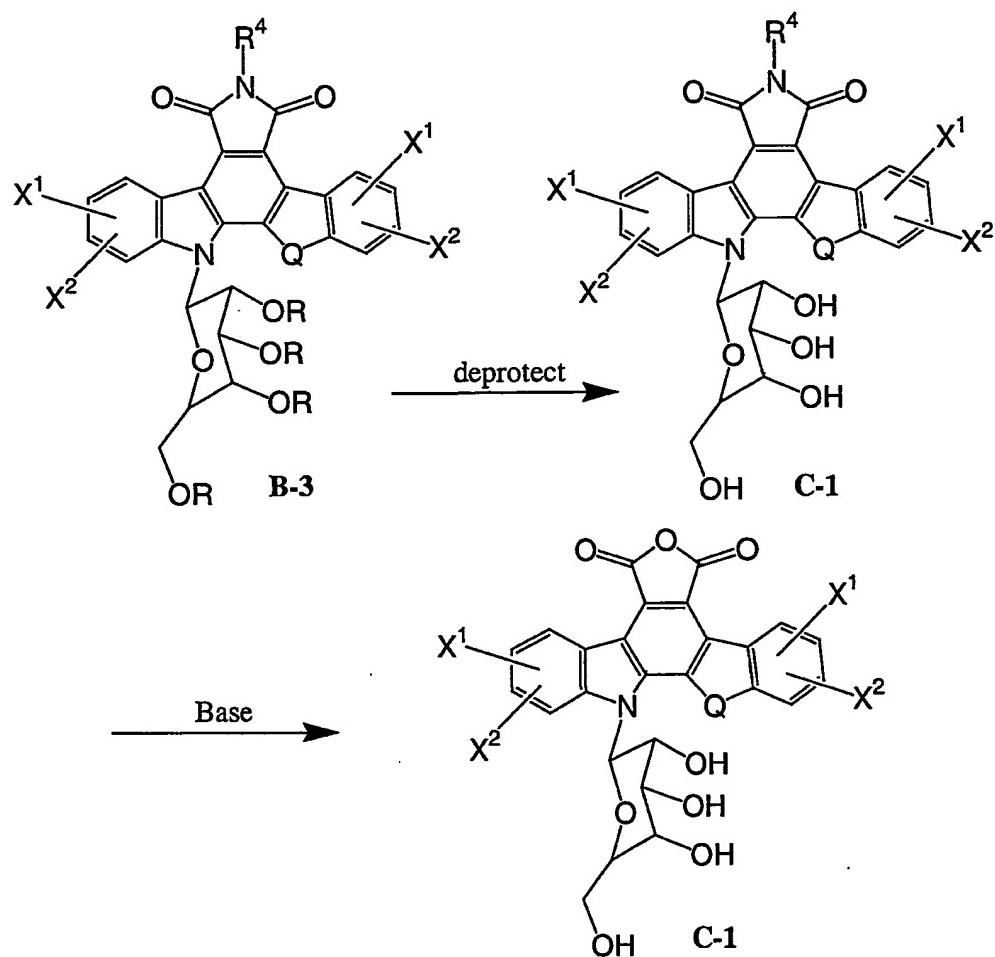
The preferred phase transfer reagents in the coupling reaction are of the general formula $(R^a)_4M^+ A^-$, wherein R^a is independently H or C₁-C₁₈ aliphatic hydrocarbon; M is N or P; and A is OH, F, Br, Cl, I, HSO₄, CN, MeSO₃, or PhCH₂CO₂. A preferred phase transfer catalyst is tricaprylmethyl ammonium chloride. Other suitable phase transfer catalysts include, but are not limited to, tris-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethyl]amine (TDA-1); BnEt₃N⁺Cl⁻; and (Bu)₃NH⁺HSO₄⁻.

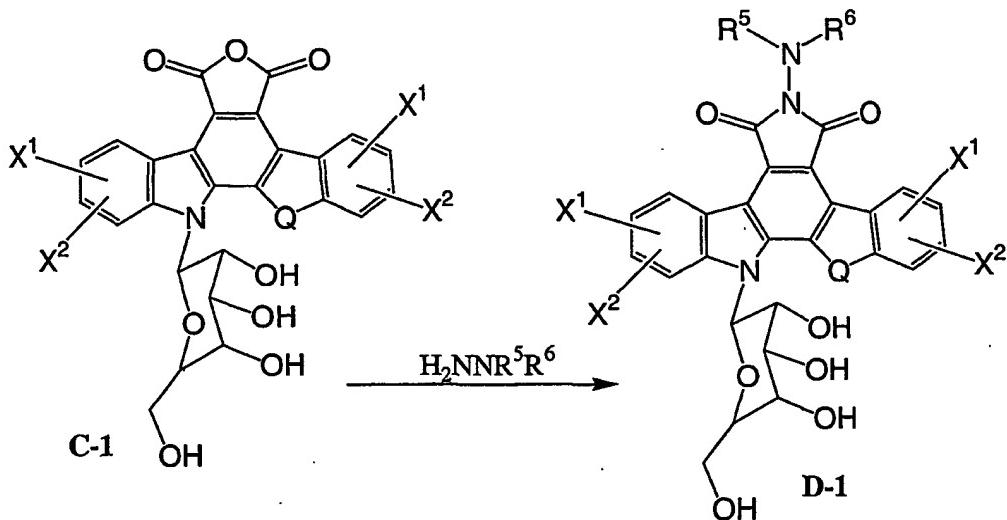
10 **Synopsis of Schemes**

Scheme A illustrates one possible generalized approach to the preparation of the glycosidation substrate **A-6**. Other approaches are known in the art, some of which are taught by Kojiri et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,922,860 (issued July 13, 2000) and hereby incorporated by reference. Scheme B shows the phase transfer catalyzed glycosidation of **A-6** to produce intermediates of type **B-3**. Schemes C and D show possible further modifications to afford compounds known to be useful as topoisomerase inhibitors.

SCHEME A

SCHEME B

SCHEME C

SCHEME D

5

EXAMPLES

Examples provided are intended to assist in a further understanding of the invention. Particular materials employed, species and conditions are intended to be further illustrative of the invention and not limiting of the reasonable scope thereof.

10

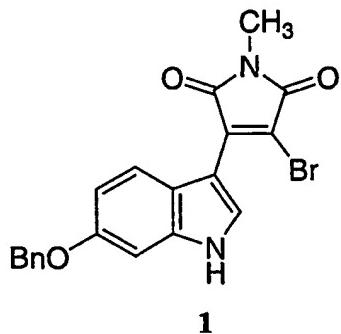
Intermediate 5, used in the glycosidation reaction of this invention, can be obtained by the method disclosed by Kojiri et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,922,860 (issued July 13, 2000) and hereby incorporated by reference. The procedure is outlined below in Examples 1 through 5.

15

EXAMPLE 1

Preparation of the compound represented by formula 1:

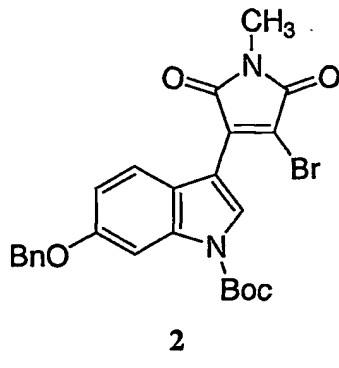
5



284 g of 6-benzyloxyindole was dissolved in 3 liters of THF, and 2.7 liters of lithium hexamethyldisilazide (as a 1M solution in THF) was added thereto. After this mixture was stirred under an atmosphere of nitrogen at -10°C for 45 minutes, 3 liters of a THF solution containing 340 g of 2,3-dibromo-N-methylmaleimide was added dropwise thereto over a period of 1 hour. After completion of the addition, the resulting mixture was stirred at 0°C for 15 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into 10 liters of 2N hydrochloric acid and extracted with 30 liters of ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate and then a saturated aqueous solution of sodium chloride, dried and concentrated. The resulting residue was recrystallized from methanol to obtain desired compound 1. HRMS (m/z): found 410.0292, calcd 410.0266 [as C₂₀H₁₅N₂O₃Br] IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3330, 3318, 1762, 1701, 1606, 1511, 1450, 1165, 1135, 1041, 794. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.60(1H, brs), 7.96(1H, d, J=8.1 Hz), 7.94(1H, d, J=2.5 Hz), 7.33-7.47(5H, m), 7.00(1H, dd, J=2.5, 8.8 Hz), 6.97(1H, d, J=2.5 Hz), 5.13(2H, s), 3.16(3H, s).

EXAMPLE 2

Preparation of the compound represented by formula 2:

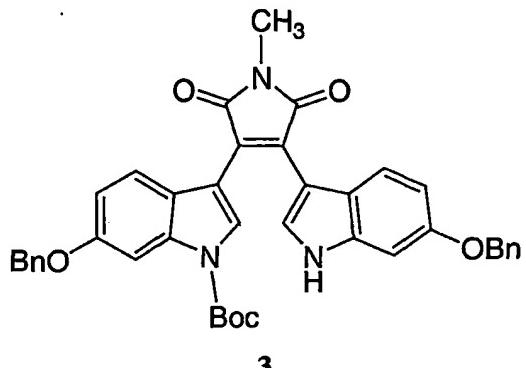


1.00 g of compound 1 obtained in Example 1, 637 mg of di-tert-butyl dicarbonate and 3 mg of 4-N,N-dimethylaminopyridine were dissolved in 200 mL of THF, and this solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. After the reaction mixture was concentrated, the resulting residue was recrystallized from ethyl acetate-hexane to obtain the desired compound (2). IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 1740, 1714, 1614, 1527, 1487, 1443, 1373, 1227, 1153. HRMS (m/z): found 510.0771, calcd 510.0791 [as $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{Br}$] $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 8.10(1H, s), 7.91(1H, d, $J=2.3$ Hz), 7.73(1H, d, $J=8.9$ Hz), 7.34-7.50(5H, m), 7.03(1H, dd, $J=2.3, 8.5$ Hz), 5.16(2H, s), 3.18(3H, s), 1.68(9H, s).

15

EXAMPLE 3Preparation of the compound represented by formula 3:

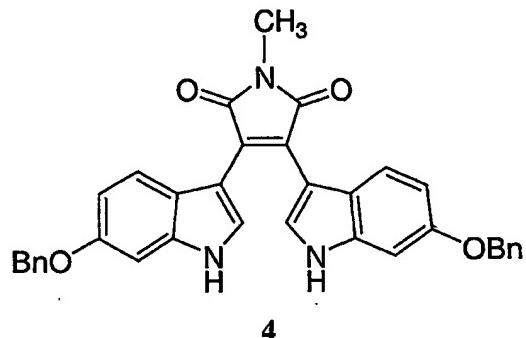
5



- 218.4 mg of 6-benzyloxyindole was dissolved in 20 mL of THF, and 2.35 mL of lithium hexamethyldisilazide (as a 1M solution in THF) was added thereto. After this mixture was stirred under an atmosphere of nitrogen at 0°C for 15 minutes, 10 mL of a THF solution containing 500 mg of the compound (2) obtained in Example 2 was added dropwise thereto over a period of 10 minutes. After completion of the addition, the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 hour. The reaction mixture was poured into 100 mL of 2N hydrochloric acid and extracted with 400 mL of ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with water, a saturated aqueous solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate and then a saturated aqueous solution of sodium chloride, dried and concentrated. The resulting residue was recrystallized from toluene-hexane to obtain the desired compound (3). HRMS (m/z): found 653.2556, calcd 653.2526 [as C₄₀H₃₅N₃O₆] IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1740, 1701, 1646, 1623, 1543, 1445, 1155. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.41(1H, brs), 7.97(1H, s), 7.84(1H, brs), 7.68(1H, brs), 7.16-7.43(10H, m), 6.98(1H, d, J=9.2 Hz), 6.85(1H, brs), 6.74(1H, d, J=9.2 Hz), 6.58(1H, d, J=9.2 Hz), 6.52(1H, d, J=9.2 Hz), 5.05(2H, s), 5.02(2H, s), 3.19(3H, s), 1.67(9H, s).

EXAMPLE 4Preparation of the compound represented by formula 4:

5

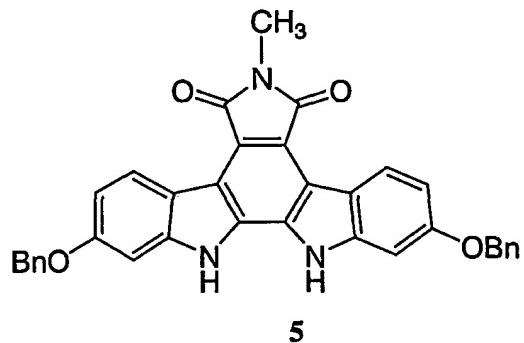


100 mg of the compound (3) obtained in Example 3 was dissolved in
 10 10 mL of methylamine (as a 40% solution in methanol), and this solution was stirred
 at room temperature for 30 minutes. After the reaction mixture was concentrated, the
 resulting residue was recrystallized from dichloromethane-acetone-hexane to obtain
 68.6 m of the desired compound (4). HRMS (m/z): found 553.1982, calcd 553.2002
 [as C₃₅H₂₇N₃O₄] IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3419, 3350, 1759, 1697, 1620, 1533, 1454,
 15 1383, 1292, 1167. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆, δ ppm): 11.48(2H, s), 7.62(2H,
 s), 7.28-7.45(10H, m), 6.95(2H, d, J=1.2 Hz), 6.70(2H, d, J=8.7 Hz), 6.39(2H, dd,
 J=1.2, 8.7 Hz), 5.04(4H, s), 3.03(3H, s).

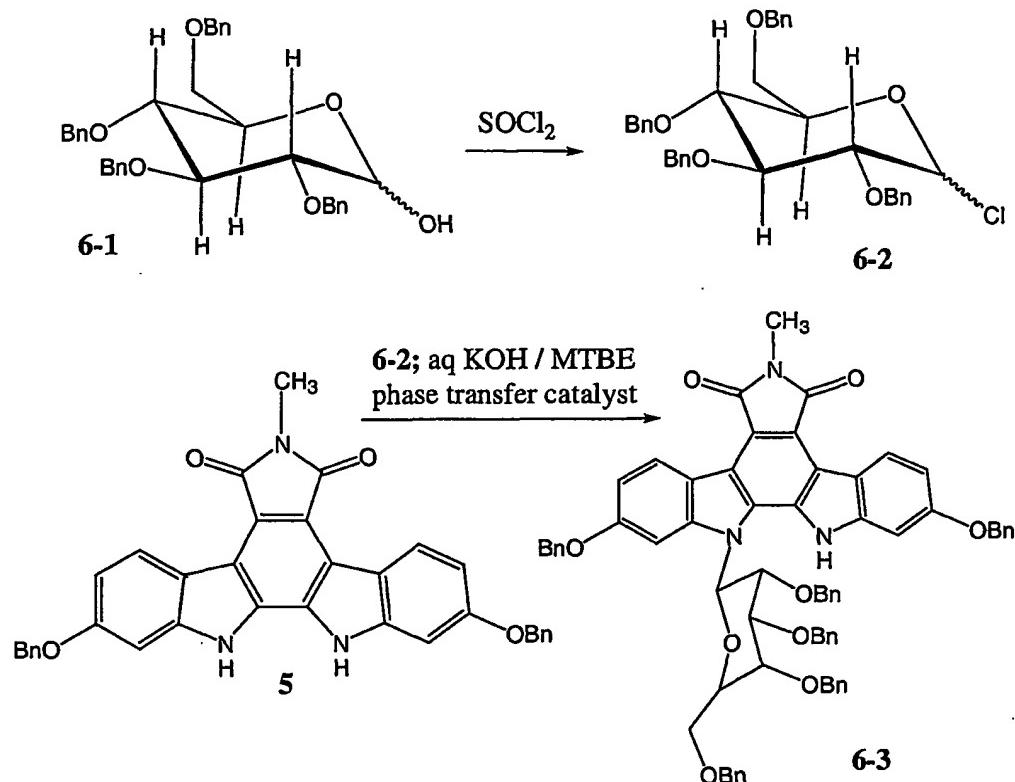
EXAMPLE 5

Preparation of the compound represented by formula 5:

5



1.01 g of the compound (4) obtained in Example 4 and 456.1 mg
of 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone were dissolved in 50 mL of toluene,
10 and this solution was stirred at 110°C for 40 minutes. After the reaction mixture
was returned to room temperature, the insoluble matter was filtered off and washed
with 30 mL of methanol. The residue was recrystallized from dimethyl sulfoxide-
dichloromethane-methanol to obtain the desired compound (5). HRMS (m/z): found
551.1829, calcd 551.1845 [as C₃₅H₂₅N₃O₄] IR (KBr, cm.⁻¹): 3257, 1740, 1675,
15 1620, 1571, 1402, 1246, 1178. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆, δ ppm): 11.46(2H,
s), 8.79(2H, d, J=8.5 Hz), 7.53(4H, d, 8.5 Hz), 7.35-7.44(8H, m), 7.02(2H, dd, 8.5,
0.8 Hz), 5.25(4H, s), 3.13(3H, s).

EXAMPLE 6

5

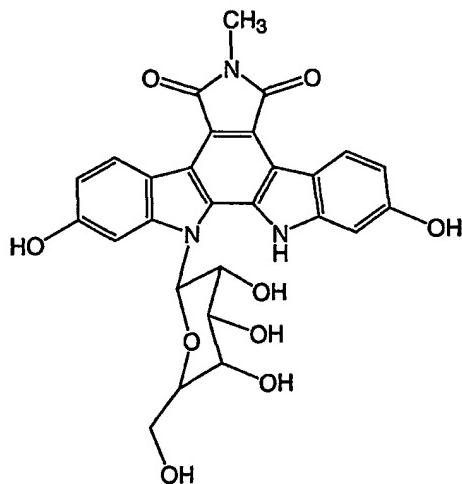
Step 1:

100g (185 mmols) of 2, 3,4,6-O-tetrabenzyl-D-glucopyranose (6-1) was combined with 360 mL of DMF at 23°C and then cooled to 9°C. Thionyl chloride (16.2 mL; 222 mols) was added slowly over 15 minutes, during which time the temperature rose to 20°C. The solution was warmed to about 30°C and aged for 1 hour. The solution was then cooled to -10°C and 10% KOH w/w (about 150 mL) was added, during which time the temperature did not exceed 0°C. The solution was warmed to 22°C. The aqueous layer was extracted with t-butyl methyl ether (MTBE) (1 x 300 mL). The combined organic layers were then washed with brine (1 x 150 mL) and water (1 x 200 mL). The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to the 350 mL level and used in the next step without further purification.

Step 2:

- 72 g (131 mmol) of compound **5** from Example 5 above were dissolved in 600 mL of MTBE and stirred for 10 minutes at 23°C. The solution of **6-2** made in Step 1 above was then added and, after 10 minutes, 45% w/w aqueous 5 KOH (300 mL) was added. After an additional 10 minutes, 40% w/w Aliquat® 336 (72 g in 110 g MTBE) was added slowly over 22 minutes. Aliquat® 336 is a brand name of tricaprylmethylammonium chloride sold by Aldrich Chemical Co., Inc., in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The solution was aged at 23°C for 6 hours and 350 mL of water were then added and allowed to mix for 5 minutes. The layers were separated 10 and the aqueous layer was washed with MTBE (1 x 300 mL). The combined organic layers were then washed with 10% w/w citric acid (1 x 300 mL) and water (1 x 300 mL). The organic layer was stirred at 22°C overnight during which time the product **(6-3)** began to crystallize. The solution was then concentrated at atmospheric pressure (bp 55°C) to the 625 mL level. At this point, the solution was cooled to 15 23°C and methanol (225 mL) was added slowly over 1 hour. The slurry was then cooled to -5°C and aged for 45 minutes. The solids were isolated and washed with chilled 1:1 methanol/MTBE (2 x 400 mL). Drying in vacuo at 25°-40°C provided the product **6-3** with over 99% purity by liquid chromatography.

- The following examples, taken from Kojiri et al. in U.S. Patent 20 No. 5,922,860 and previously incorporated by reference, illustrate the use of the glycosidation products in the synthesis of a known topoisomerase inhibitor (**9**).

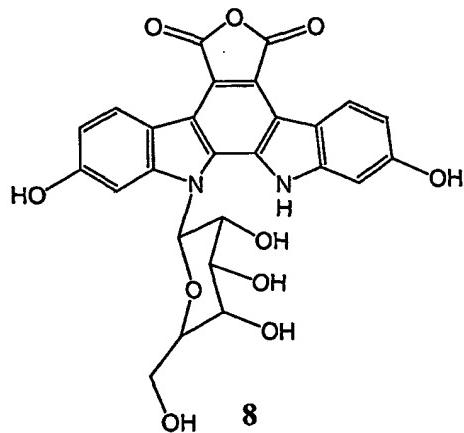
EXAMPLE 7Preparation of the compound represented by formula 7:

100 mg of compound 6-3 was dissolved in 6 mL of chloroform-methanol (2:1), and a catalytic amount of palladium black was added thereto. This mixture was stirred under an atmosphere of hydrogen for 2 hours. After the catalyst 10 was filtered off, the filtrate was concentrated. The resulting residue was crystallized from methanol-acetone-ethyl acetate-hexane, developed with Sephadex LH- 20, eluted with chloroform-methanol-ethanol-tetrahydrofuran (5:2:2:1), and recrystallized from acetone-methanol-hexane to obtain the desired compound (7). HRMS (m/z): found 533.1429, calcd 533.1434 [as C₂₇H₂₃N₃O₉] IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3328, 1733, 1683, 1678, 1540, 1417, 1126, 1081, 611. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆, δ ppm): 11.20(1H, s), 9.76(1H, s), 9.74(1H, s), 8.88(1H, d, J=8.6 Hz), 8.80(1H, d, J=8.6 Hz), 7.18(1H, d, J=2.1 Hz), 6.99(1H, d, J=2.1 Hz), 6.82(1H, dd, J=2.1, 8.6 Hz), 6.80(1H, dd, J=2.1, 8.6 Hz), 5.97(1H, J=8.9 Hz), 5.86(1H, t, J=4.0 Hz), 5.33(1H, d, J=4.9 Hz), 5.12(1H, d, J=4.3 Hz), 4.94(1H, d, J=5.2 Hz), 4.02(1H, dd, J=3.0, 10.7 Hz), 3.94(1H, m), 3.78(1H, m), 3.52(2H, m), 3.16(3H, s).

EXAMPLE 8

Preparation of the compound represented by formula 8:

5

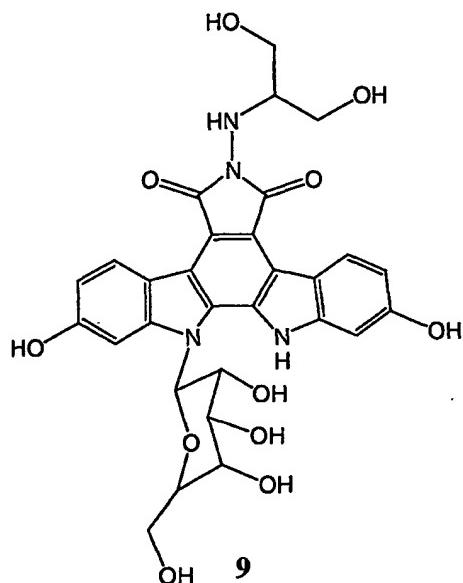


1.2 g the compound (7) was dissolved in 40 mL of a 10% aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide, and this solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was neutralized by the addition of 40 mL of 2N hydrochloric acid, and then extracted with 1 liter of methyl ethyl ketone. The organic layer was washed with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium chloride, dried and concentrated. The resulting residue was recrystallized from acetone-heptane to obtain the desired compound (8). HRMS (m/z): found 520.1147, calcd 520.1118 [as C₂₆H₂₀N₂O₁₀] IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3311, 1810, 1739, 1652, 1626, 1558, 1405, 1091, 611. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆, δ ppm): 11.4(1H, s), 9.95(1H, s), 9.92(1H, s), 8.69(1H, d, J=7.7 Hz), 8.63(1H, d, J=7.7 Hz), 7.25(1H, d, J=1.5 Hz), 7.03(1H, d, J=1.5 Hz), 6.90(1H, dd, J=1.5, 7.7 Hz), 6.87(1H, d, J=1.5, 7.7 Hz), 6.06(1H, d, J=8.0 Hz), 5.95(1H, t, J=4.6 Hz), 5.38(1H, d, J=5.1 Hz), 5.16(1H, d, J=5.2 Hz), 4.99(1H, d, J=5.2 Hz), 3.30-4.10(6H, m).

20

EXAMPLE 9

Preparation of the topoisomerase inhibitor represented by formula 9:



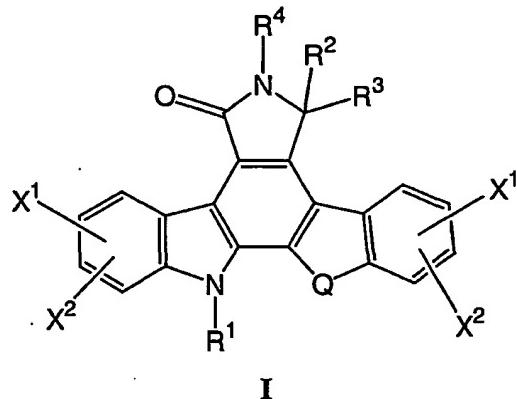
15

500 mg of compound **8** was dissolved in 50 mL of DMF, and 152 mg of 2-hydrazino-1,3-propanediol was added thereto. This mixture was stirred at 80°C. for 1 hour. After the reaction mixture was concentrated, the resulting residue was purified with Sephadex LH-20 (chloroform-methanol-ethanol-water=5:2:2:1) to obtain compound **9**. HRMS (m/z): found 609.1816, calcd 609.1833 [as C₂₉H₂₈N₄O₁₁] IR (KBr, cm.sup.-1): 3415, 3353, 1749, 1652, 1575, 1540, 1375, 1197, 609. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆, δ ppm): 11.20(1H, s), 9.78(1H, s), 9.75(1H, s), 8.87(1H, d, J=8.6 Hz), 8.79(1H, d, J=8.6 Hz), 7.18(1H, d, J=2.0 Hz), 6.98(1H, d, J=2.0 Hz), 6.82(1H, dd, J=2.0, 8.6 Hz), 6.80(1H, dd, J=2.0, 8.6 Hz), 5.97(1H, J=8.3 Hz), 5.86(1H, d, J=3.8 Hz), 5.55(1H, d, J=2.6 Hz), 5.32(1H, d, J=4.6 Hz), 5.11(1H, d, J=5.3 Hz), 4.91(1H, d, J=5.1 Hz), 4.53(2H, t, J=5.4 Hz), 4.02(1H, m), 3.85-3.95(2H, m), 3.78(1H, m), 3.40-3.60(6H, m), 3.20-3.30(1H, m).

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula I,

5



wherein

10 Q is O, N-R, S, or CH₂;

X¹ and X² are independently selected from:

- 1) H,
- 2) halogen,
- 15 3) OH,
- 4) CN,
- 5) NC,
- 6) CF₃,
- 7) (C=O)NO₂,
- 20 8) (C=O)C₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 9) (C=O)OC₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 10) OCH₂OCH₂CH₂Si(CH₃)₃,
- 11) NO₂,

- 12) 9-fluorenylmethylcarbonyl,
- 13) NR₅R₆,
- 14) OC₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 15) C₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 5 16) C₁-C₆ alkylenearyl, and
- 17) OC₁-C₆ alkylenearyl;

R and R¹ are independently:

- 10 1) H,
- 2) (C=O)C₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 3) (C=O)CF₃,
- 4) (C=O)OC₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 5) 9-fluorenylmethylcarbonyl,
- 6) a furanose group, or
- 15 7) a pyranose group,

so long as one of R and R¹ is a furanose group or a pyranose group;

R² and R³ are independently OH or H, or

R² and R³ are taken together to form an oxo group;

20

R⁴ is:

- 1) H,
- 2) C₁-C₁₀ alkyl,
- 3) CHO,
- 25 4) (C=O)C₁-C₁₀ alkyl,
- 5) (C=O)OC₁-C₁₀ alkyl,
- 6) C₀-C₁₀ alkylenearyl, or
- 7) C₀-C₁₀ alkylene-NR₅R₆;

R⁵ and R⁶ are independently:

- 1) H,
- 2) (C₁-C₈ alkyl)-(R⁷)₂,
- 5 3) (C=O)O(C₁-C₈ alkyl),
- 4) 9-fluorenylmethylcarbonyl,
- 5) OCH₂OCH₂CH₂Si(CH₃)₃,
- 6) (C=O)(C₁-C₈ alkyl),
- 7) (C=O)CF₃, or
- 10 8) (C₂-C₈ alkenyl)-(R⁷)₂, or

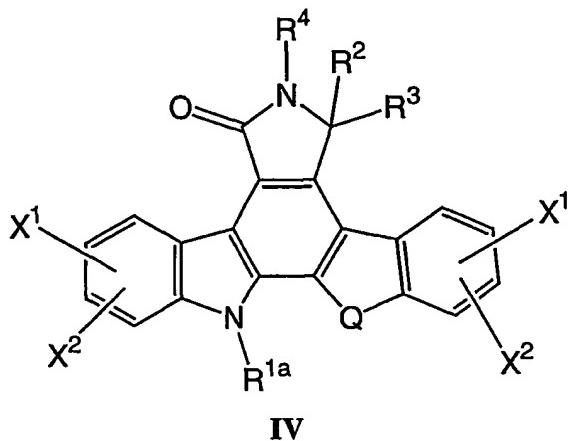
R⁵ and R⁶ are taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached to form N-phthalimido;

15 R⁷ is:

- 1) H,
- 2) OH,
- 3) OC₁-C₆ alkyl, or
- 4) aryl, said aryl optionally substituted with up to two groups selected
20 from OH, O(C₁-C₆ alkyl), and (C₁-C₃ alkylene)-OH;

which comprises the steps of:

- (a) reacting a furanose or a pyranose with an activating reagent to produce an activated sugar; and
- 25 (b) coupling the activated sugar with a compound of Formula IV



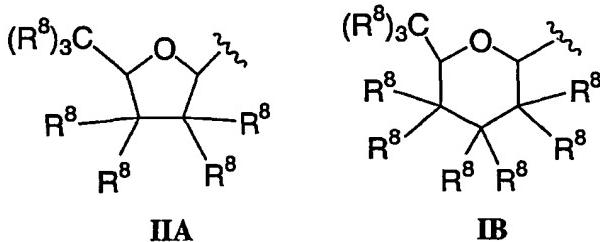
wherein R^{1a} is H if Q is O, S, CH₂, or N-R and R is not H, otherwise R^{1a} is selected from R¹;

in the presence of an aqueous solution of alkali hydroxide and a phase transfer catalyst in a biphasic system to produce the compound of Formula I.

10 2. The process of Claim 1, wherein

R and R¹ are independently selected from a furanose group of Formula II A or a pyranose group of Formula II B, when R or R¹ is defined as a furanose group or a pyranose group, respectively;

15



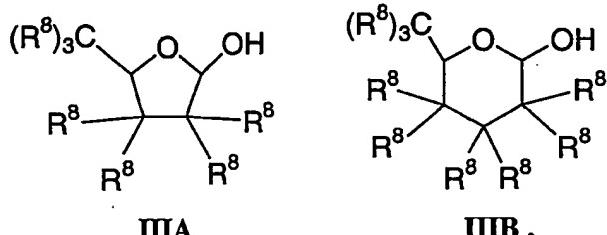
R8 is independently selected from:

20 1) hydrogen,

- 2) C₁-C₆ alkyl,
 - 3) OH,
 - 4) halogen,
 - 5) O(C₁-C₆ alkyl),
 - 6) O(C₁-C₆ alkylene)-aryl,
 - 7) OSO₂(C₁-C₆ alkyl),
 - 8) OSO₂aryl,
 - 9) OCH₂OCH₂CH₂Si(CH₃)₃,
 - 10) O(C=O)(C₁-C₆ alkyl),
 - 11) O(C=O)CF₃,
 - 12) azido, or
 - 13) NR⁵R⁶, or
two R⁸'s on the same carbon are taken together to be oxo, =N-R⁵, or
=N-R⁷; and
- 15

the furanose or pyranose in Step (a) is a furanose of Formula IIIA or a pyranose of Formula IIIB, respectively;

20



25 3. The process according to Claim 2 wherein the activating reagent in Step (a) is selected from an acid halide and the biphasic system in Step (b)

is comprised of an organic solvent selected from a hydrocarbon, a nitrile, an ether, a halogenated hydrocarbon, a ketone, or an apolar aprotic solvent.

4. The process according to Claim 3 wherein the activating reagent is selected from SOCl_2 or oxalyl chloride.

5. The process according to Claim 3 wherein the biphasic system is comprised of methyl-t-butyl ether, dichloromethane, or trifluorotoluene.

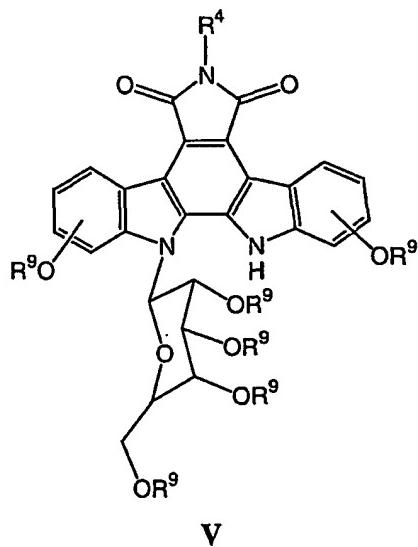
6. The process according to Claim 3 wherein the phase transfer catalyst in Step (b) is $(\text{R}^a)_4\text{M}^+ \text{A}^-$;
 R^a is independently H or C₁-C₁₈ aliphatic hydrocarbon;
10 M is N or P; and
A is OH, F, Br, Cl, I, HSO_4 , CN, MeSO_3 , or PhCH_2CO_2 .

7. The process according to Claim 6, wherein the phase transfer catalyst is tricaprylmethyl ammonium chloride.

15 8. The process according to Claim 3, wherein the aqueous solution of alkali hydroxide in Step (b) has a concentration of about 5% to about 95% w/w and the alkali hydroxide is selected from lithium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, and cesium hydroxide.

20 9. The process of Claim 8 wherein the aqueous solution of alkali hydroxide has a concentration of about 45% to about 50% w/v and the alkali hydroxide is potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide.

25 10. A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula V,



wherein

5 R⁴ is:

- 1) H,
- 2) C₁-C₁₀ alkyl,
- 3) CHO
- 4) (C=O)C₁-C₁₀ alkyl,
- 10 5) (C=O)OC₁-C₁₀ alkyl,
- 6) C₀-C₁₀ alkylenearyl, or
- 7) C₀-C₁₀ alkylene-NR⁵R⁶;

R⁵ and R⁶ are independently:

- 15 1) H,
- 2) (C₁-C₈ alkyl)-(R⁷)₂,
- 3) (C=O)O(C₁-C₈ alkyl),
- 4) 9-fluorenylmethylcarbonyl,
- 5) OCH₂OCH₂CH₂Si(CH₃)₃,
- 20 6) (C=O)(C₁-C₈ alkyl),

- 7) $(C=O)CF_3$, or
- 8) $(C_2-C_8$ alkenyl)- $(R^7)_2$, or

5 R⁵ and R⁶ are taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached to
form N-phthalimido;

R⁷ is:

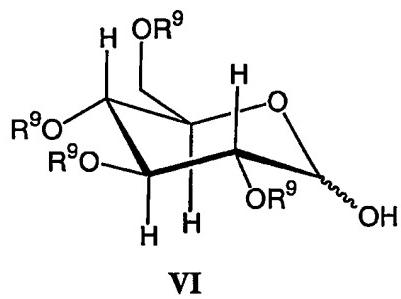
- 10 1) H,
- 2) OH,
- 3) OC₁-C₆ alkyl, or
- 4) aryl, said aryl optionally substituted with up to two groups selected
from OH, O(C₁-C₆ alkyl), and (C₁-C₃ alkylene)-OH;

R⁹ is:

- 15 1) H,
- 2) C₁-C₆ alkyl,
- 3) (C₁-C₆ alkylene)-aryl,
- 4) SO₂(C₁-C₆ alkyl),
- 5) SO₂aryl,
- 20 6) CH₂OCH₂CH₂Si(CH₃)₃,
- 7) (C=O)(C₁-C₆ alkyl), or
- 8) (C=O)CF₃;

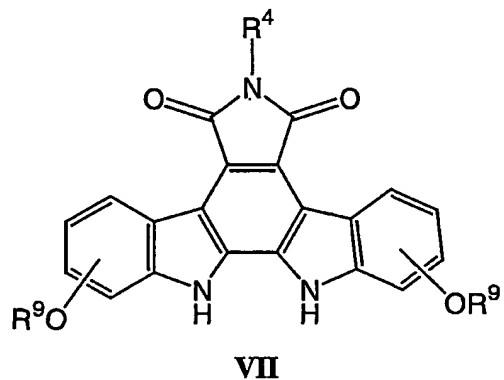
which comprises the steps of:

- 25 (a) reacting a sugar derivative of Formula VI with an acid chloride to produce the
activated sugar; and



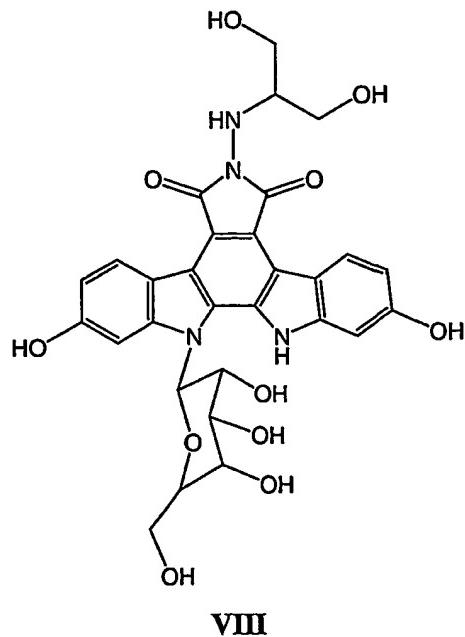
(b) coupling the activated sugar with a compound of Formula VII

5



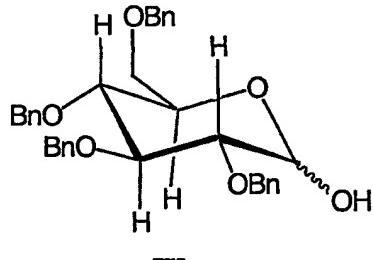
in the presence of an aqueous solution of an alkali hydroxide and tricaprylmethyl
10 ammonium chloride in t-butyl methyl ether to produce the compound of Formula V.

11. A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula VIII,



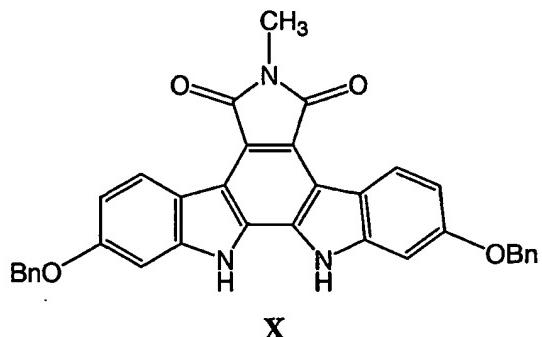
which comprises the steps of:

- 5 (a) reacting a sugar derivative of Formula IX with thionyl chloride to produce the activated sugar;

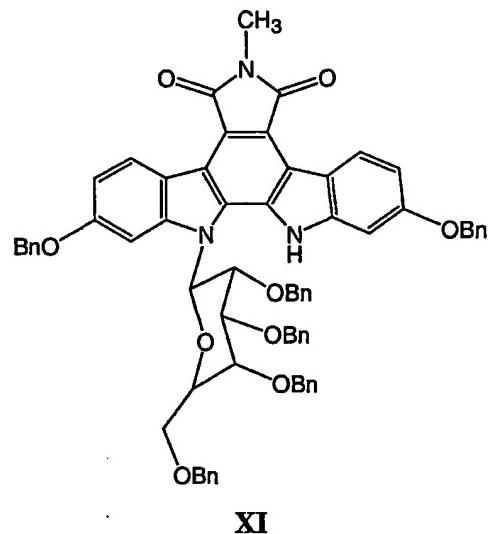


10

- (b) coupling the activated sugar with a compound of Formula X

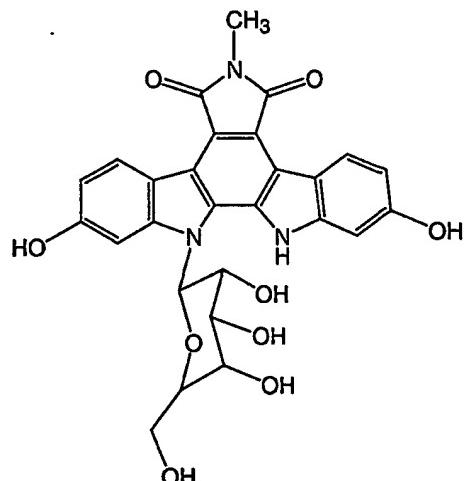


in the presence of an aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide
5 and tricaprylmethyl ammonium chloride in t-butyl methyl ether to form the
glycosidated compound **XI**;



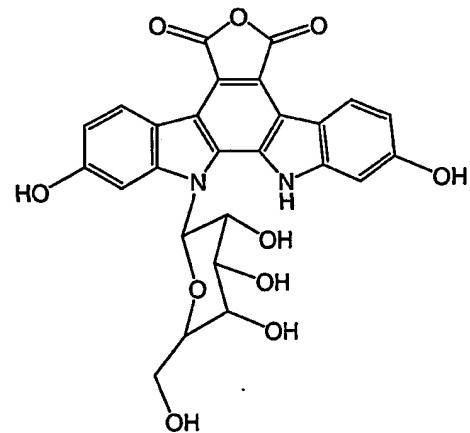
10

(c) deprotecting the glycosidated product XI by reacting it with catalytic palladium in
the presence of hydrogen gas to form the deprotected glycosidated product **XII**;



XII

- (d) reacting the deprotected glycosidated product XII with an aqueous solution of
5 alkali hydroxide to form anhydride XIII; and



XIII

- 10 (e) reacting anhydride XIII with 2-hydrazino-1,3-propanediol to produce the
compound of Formula VIII.

12. The process of Claim 10 wherein Step (A) is conducted in t-butyl methyl ether or tetrahydrofuran at a temperature of about -10°C to about 30°C and Step (B) is conducted at a temperature of about 0°C to about 40°C.

5 13. The process of Claim 12, wherein the potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide in step (b) is added before the tricaprylmethyl ammonium chloride.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 May 2002 (10.05.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/036601 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61K 31/33**, (74) Common Representative: MERCK & CO., INC.; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/47603

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 26 October 2001 (26.10.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/244,675 31 October 2000 (31.10.2000) US

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicants (*for all designated States except US*): MERCK & CO., INC. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US). BANYU PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD. [JP/JP]; 2-3, Nihombashi Honcho 2-Chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-8416 (JP).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
28 November 2002

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



WO 02/036601 A3

(54) Title: PHASE TRANSFER CATALYZED GLYCOSIDATION OF AN INDOLOCARBAZOLE

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a novel glycosidation process to make intermediates useful in the preparation of indolopyrrolocarbazole derivatives which inhibit the growth of tumor cells and are therefore useful in the treatment of cancer in mammals, and the like.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/47603

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61K 31/33, 31/55, 31/70
US CL : 514/25, 183, 211, 410, 424

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 514/25, 183, 211, 410, 424

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WEST; USPATFULL, USPAT2, WPIDS, CAPLUS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,808,613 A (KANEKO ET AL) 28 February 1989 (28.02.89), column 6, lines 1-20.	1-13
X	US 5,516,772 A (GLICKSMAN ET AT) 14 May 1996 (14.05.96), column 18, line 8 through column 24, line 44.	1-13
X	US 5,591,842 A (KOJIRI ET AL) 7 January 1997 (07.01.97), column 14, line 45 through column 63, line 22.	1-13
X	US 5,629,304 A (MURAKATA ET AL) 13 May 1997 (13.05.97), column 4, line 25 through column 17, line 47.	1-13
X	WO 98/07433 A1 (BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY) 26 February 1998 (26.02.98), see entire document.	1-13

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"&" document member of the same patent family

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 July 2002 (29.07.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

18 SEP 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Authorized officer

James O. Wilson

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Telephone No. 703-308-1235